GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2737
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Causes of Droughts
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether droughts in the country are caused due to changing crop patterns, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has identified such reasons which cause frequent droughts in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle frequent droughts in the country and mitigate their effects on crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): The agricultural drought is caused due to soil moisture deficit during crop growing period resulting from shortage of rainfall for an extended period, untimely and/or its uneven distribution in areas having no irrigation facilities. The Government advocates crop diversification with low water consuming crops and use of drought tolerant cultivars along with modern agronomic practices like raised bed sowing, mulching, direct seeding of rice, system of rice intensification, alternate furrow irrigation, efficient methods of irrigation like sprinkler and drip irrigation for drought affected areas.

(c): To deal with the situation, the following steps have been taken:

- Intervention made in drought affected areas during 2015-16 by Implementation of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy, Implementation of interventions for saving perennial horticulture crops, implementation of additional fodder development programme.

- Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 600 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of any extreme climatic events.

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched with the objective of extending the coverage of irrigation in a focused manner. Under PMKSY focus has been given for: Creation of new water sources; Repair, restoration and renovation of defunct water sources; Construction of water harvesting structures, secondary & micro storage, ground water development and enhancing potentials of traditional water bodies at village level.

- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests & diseases, weather conditions, Government of India recently introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for implementation from Kharif 2016.

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